

IN RECOGNITION OF FRED L. FIELDS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM BOILERMAKERS LOCAL 549

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fred L. Fields, who is retiring after 40 years as a Boilermaker and 9 years as Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer of Boilermakers Local 549.

Fred Fields began his career in 1964 as a Boilermaker Apprentice at the Kaiser Steel shop in Napa, and finished his education through the Western States Field Construction Apprenticeship program.

Throughout his 40 year career as a California based Boilermaker, Mr. Fields has demonstrated outstanding leadership. He was elected by Local 549 to attend four Boilermaker National Conventions, where he was appointed to the Construction Division Committee by International President Charles W. Jones. He was elected as a trustee to the Executive Board of Local 549 in 1990, and was elected Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer in 1996 and was reelected in 1999.

Fred Fields was appointed to represent the western states as the 13 western states as the Trustee on the Boilermaker National Health and Welfare Trust fund by International President Jones in 1997. He serves on the Executive Board of the California State Board of the California State Building and Construction Trades Council for the Boiler makers.

Mr. Fields recognized the importance of the formation of California Unions for Reliable Energy (C.U.R.E) to the boilermaker profession when it was created in 1996, C.U.R.E has provided of construction jobs for his fellow boiler-makers.

Fred Fields has selflessly served his community as part of Local 549; donating food to needy families through the Loaves and Fishes Program, the Contra Costa Food Bank, and the Richmond rescue mission.

Mr. Speaker, it is always inspiring to see someone who has dedicated his life to improving conditions for his brothers and sisters in Local 549. Throughout Fred Fields' tenure as a Boilermaker, he has demonstrated not only commitment to his chosen profession, but also dedication to the citizens of his community. I am proud to recognize my constituent, Fred Fields, on the occasion of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on March 8, 2005 during rollcall votes Nos. 53, 54, and 55, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather on my travel back to Washington, DC.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three resolutions: the Journal vote, H. Res. 133, a bill pertaining to funding of the standing committees of the U.S. House of Representatives, and H. Res. 122, legislation urging the President to proclaim a special year of languages.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN JOEL WILLIAMS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of San Antonio City Councilman Joel Williams.

Mr. Williams has served both his city and his nation with distinction. A native Texan, Mr. Williams served in the United States Army Reserve for more than 25 years, rising to the position of Chief of the AMEDD Battle Simulation Center at Fort Sam Houston.

He has also been a leader in civil service and volunteer work. He was a member of the boards of Habitat for Humanity, the San Antonio Credit Union, and the East Central Independent School District. He worked on the Fund Distribution Panel of the United Way of San Antonio, and was a member of the Texas Association of School Boards.

He has consistently worked to improve the quality of education our children receive, and to safeguard the financial health of our community. He continues that work now, as City Councilman for San Antonio Council District 2. Joel Williams serves as an example of what discipline, courage, and dedication can accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the contributions of San Antonio Councilman Joel Williams.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALABAMA A&M BULLDOGS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Vann Pettaway and his Alabama A&M University Basketball team on winning its first Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship and earning a spot in the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament. This is the first time that the Bulldogs have been invited to the NCAA Tournament in the seven years the program has been a Division I member.

The A&M Bulldogs finished this historic season with a record of eighteen wins and thirteen losses, culminating on Sunday afternoon with a nationally televised seventy-two to fifty-three victory over the Alabama State Hornets. In that game, Obie Trotter led all players with a game-high twenty four points, five assists and six steals and was named the SWAC's tournament MVP. Joe Martin finished second with seventeen points and six rebounds.

All of us in North Alabama are proud of our hometown heroes and will be rooting for the Bulldogs on Tuesday night when Coach Pettaway leads his team against the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies in Dayton, Ohio. All published accounts have said that the Bulldogs are playing their best basketball right now and are motivated to show the Nation why they deserve a spot in this tournament.

Mr. Speaker, these student athletes have set a fine example for future athletes in our

community. Their hard work, commitment, and dedication, on and off the court, are a large part of the team's success.

On behalf of everyone in North Alabama and all Bulldog fans across the Nation, I rise today to congratulate the Alabama A&M Bulldogs and wish them the best of luck against Oakland University.

THE GENETIC INFORMATION NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2005

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to join Representatives BIGGERT, SLAUGHTER and NEY in introducing the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2005. This bill will prevent abuses of genetic information for workforce and insurance decisions. Advances in genetic science are already saving lives and will save many more in the years ahead, but these advances should not be the basis for denying Americans their jobs or their health insurance.

One of the most significant scientific accomplishments in history has been sequencing the human genetic code. As a result of this achievement, scientists have identified genetic markers for a variety of chronic health conditions, increasing the potential for early treatment and prevention.

Unfortunately, the ability to predict disease through genetic testing and family history opens the door for discrimination, particularly the employment and the health insurance industry. Such a threat has deterred the public and scientists from taking full advantage of the important opportunities that genetic information provides. Without appropriate protections to encourage providers, the health care community and the public to embrace genetic testing, the health care arena will be incapable of taking full advantage of the important opportunities resulting from the advancement of genetic information and technology.

The Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2005 prohibits health insurers in both group and individual markets from: using genetic information to impose enrollment restrictions or to adjust premium or contribution amounts; requesting genetic testing or results except as necessary for treatment, payment, or health care operations; and requesting or requiring the use of genetic information for the purposes of underwriting.

With regards to employment, the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2005 grants enforcement powers to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and: makes it an unlawful employment practice for an employer, employment agency, labor organization, or training program to discriminate against an individual or deprive an individual of employment opportunities because of genetic information; prohibits the collection of genetic information except where necessary to monitor the effects of toxic substances in the workplace, when authorized by the employee, or as required by law; safeguards the confidentiality of genetic information in the employment setting.

The Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2005 brings public policy up-to-date